Claims

1. A network node (10) for switching digital information of different protocol types with a plurality of modules (12-x, 13-x, 14-x) which are arranged in an input stage (12), a central stage (13) and an output stage (14), each module (12-x) of the input stage (12) being connected to each module (13-x) of the central stage (13) and each module (13-x) of the central stage (13) being connected to each module (14-x) of the output stage (14), characterised in that a uniform interface (15) for all protocol types is provided between the input stage (12) and the central stage (13) and between the central stage (13) and the output stage (14), that each of the modules (13-x) of the central stage (13) is designed for one protocol type, and that the interfaces (15) comprise means for forwarding information as a function of the protocol type to a module (13-x) of the central stage (13) adapted thereto.

2. A network node (10) according to Claim 1, characterised in that the modules (13-x) of the central stage (13) are replaceable.

3. A network node (10) according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the modules (12-x, 14-x) of the input stages (12) and of the output stages (14) are adapted to a plurality of, or all of, the different protocol types.

4. A network node (10) according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the network node (10) is a distributed node.

5. A process for switching digital information of different protocol types, wherein a network node (10) is provided with a plurality of modules (12-x, 13-x, 14-x) which are arranged in an input stage (12), a central stage (13) and an output stage (14), each module (12-x) of the input stage (12) being connected to each module (13-x) of the central stage (13) and each module (13-x) of the central stage (13) being connected to each module (14-x) of the output stage (14), characterised in that a uniform interface (15) for all protocol types is provided between the input stage (12) and the central stage (13) and between the central stage (13) and the output stage (14), that each of the modules (13-x) of the central stage (13) is designed for one protocol type, and that information is forwarded from the interfaces (15) as a function of the protocol type to a module (13-x) of the central stage (13) adapted thereto.